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Message Text

SECRET

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14
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /044 W
---------- 052326
O 161040Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6935

S E C R E T SANA 3511

FROM AMBASSADOR SCOTES

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA, PFOR, MASS, US, SA, YE
SUBJECT: CONSULTATION WITH HAMDI

AMMAN OR DAMASCUS PLEASE PASS TO ASST. SECRETARY ATHERTON

1. APPRECIATE THAT YOUR SCHEDULE UNFORTUNATELY MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO VISIT SANA ON THIS TRIP. I HAVE THEREFORE BEEN TURNING OVER ALTERNATIVE WAYS WE CAN USE YOUR TRIP TO ENHANCE FURTHER US/YEMENI RELATIONS AS WELL AS TO SUPPORT HERE IN SANA OUR EFFORTS TO PUT SAUDI/YEMENI RELATIONSHIP ON FIRMER BASIS OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONFIDENCE.

2. AS YOU KNOW YEMENIS HAVE LONG FELT THAT WE HAVE DEALT WITH THEM TOO
MUCH THROUGH THE SAUDIS. YEMENIS ESPECIALLY APPRECIATE ALL SIGNS OF DIRECT USG RECOGNITION AND WELCOME OCCASIONAL STATEMENTS FROM SPECIAL EMISSARIES OR HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS OF OUR SUPPORT FOR THIS GOVERNMENT AND FOR YAR IN GENERAL. MOREOVER, IMPACT WOULD BE ALL THE GREATER WHEN WE CAN SAY THAT WE HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN PROMOTING GOOD RELATIONS
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BETWEEN SAUDIS AND HAMDI REGIME THROUGH YOUR VISIT.

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SUCH COMMUNICATIONS ARE LIKELY BE PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE WHEN--
AS AT PRESENT--THERE ARE GOOD SIGNS THAT SAUDIS ARE ALSO
DETERMINED GET THEIR YEMENI PROGRAMS (ESPECIALLY MILITARY
MODERNIZATION) BACK ON TRACK AND MOVING AHEAD.

3. WE HAVE THEREFORE ASKED OURSELVES IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE
FOR YOU TO SEEK MITTING WITH HAMDI IN JIDDA. AS MEETING
SHOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE AFTER YOQNSEE SAUDIS, MEETING
COULD NOT OCCUR UNTIL SAT 19 DECEMBER. I UNDERSTAND
HAMDI PLANS RETURN SANA BEFORE THEN.

4. RATHER THAN SUGGESTING THAT HAMDI EXTEND HIS STAY
IN JIDDA I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD,
FOLLOWING YOUR TALKS WITH THE SAUDIS, DIRECT A
LETTER TO HAMDI FOR DELIVERY HERE IN SANA DESCRIBING
IN GENERAL TERMS:

A) FACT THAT YEMENI SAUDI RELATIONS WAS ONE IMPORTANT
REASON FOR YOUR TRAVEL TO JIDDA.

B) SUPPORT OF USG FOR HAMDI AND HIS PROGRAM OF MILITARY
MODERNIZATION AND POLITICAL EVOLUTION IN YEMEN.

C) IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO YEMENI MILITARY MODERNIZATION
WITH WESTERN WEAPONS AND OUR WILLINGNESS (AS STATED ON
MANY OCCASIONS IN PAST) TO MOVE FORWARD RAPIDLY
WITH SALES AND DELIVERY OF WIDE VARIETY OF EQUIPMENT
WHEN FUNDING AGREEMENTS ARE WORKED OUT WITH SAUDIS.

D) OUR CONTINUED WILLINGNESS SUPPLY ASAP A SMALL IMPACT
PACKAGE AS WAY TO BEGIN LONG TERM ARMS SUPPLY WITH USG.

E) OUR WILLINGNESS TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE AS
INTERLOCUTOR BUT ONLY WITHIN CONTEXT OF EFFORTS BY
YEMENIS AND SAUDIS TO DEVELOP FURTHER THE NEW AND VERY
PROMISING RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST, CONFIDENCE AND COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

F) OUR DEEP CONCERN WITH CONSEQUENCES OF THE POSSIBILITY
THAT THE YEMEN MIGHT, AS ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENT TO
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WESTERN ARMS, SEEK TO RENEW ARMS SUPPLY WITH SOVIET
UNION.

5. I BELIEVE HAMDI WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THIS FIRST
HAND REPORT ON MATTERS THAT ARE SO ESSENTIAL TO LOCAL
PRECEPTIONS OF YAR INTERESTS AND USG ROLE. I HAVE
SAID SUCH THINGS MYSELF ON MANY OCCASIONS, USING
INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT, BUT LETTER FROM

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YOU AFTER YOUR DISCUSSIONS IN JIDDA WOULD GIVE TIMELY
AND USEFUL IMPACT TO RENEWED ASSERTION OF USG POLICY IN PARA
4 ABOVE.

6. LETTER COULD BE ADDRESSED TO OTHER FIGURE IN YEMEN
GOVERNMENT LIKE FONMIN ABDULLAH AL-ASNAJ OR SIGNED BY
SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOU BUT IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF
IT WERE CONVEYED DIRECTLY TO YAR PRESIDENT.
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TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, MASS, US, SA, YE, (HAMDI, IBRAHIM MUHAMMAD AL), (ATHERTON, ALFRED L JR)
To: AMMAN DAMASCUS
Type: TE
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